

Alina Szyputevska-Porzynska

PhD, doctor habilitatus, SGH Warsaw School of Economics Collegium of World Economy.
Institute of International Economic Policy, Head of the International Financial Policy Unit;
Warsaw, Poland
ORCID: 0000-0003-0177-545X
E-mail: aszypu@sgh.waw.pl

REVIEW

Monograph “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Governance Mechanisms and Practice of Their Application” (original title: *Забезпечення якості вищої освіти: механізми управління та практика їх використання*) by Ms. Svitlana Anatolyevna Moroz, the Candidate of Sciences in Public Administration

The subject of this review is the monograph “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Governance Mechanisms and Practice of Their Application” by Ms Moroz Svitlana Anatolyevna – the Candidate in Sciences in Public Administration.

The structure of the review is as follows:

1. Aim, research problem and the thesis
2. Research methods
3. Structure
4. Conclusion

1. The reviewed monograph is an example of a solidly prepared work, taking up an essential scientific problem, relevant in the context of research conducted by many academic centres around the world. The subject of the reviewed monograph is even more important in the era of tightened international cooperation in this field. It concerns in particular the cooperation on the European continent, also considered in the monograph, in the form of, inter alia, the European Higher Education Area. Quality assurance, the title subject, has been a priority under the Bologna process. The conviction about the importance of the topic also has a global dimension, as evidenced by one of the UN's current Sustainable Development Goals. Inclusive and quality education including higher education is considered to be one of the main vehicles of

sustainable development. Quality assurance in education, therefore, is not an end in itself. It is fundamental for the socio-economic and socio-political development of society. At the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) meeting, held in Strasbourg in April 2022, BFUG members, deciding to suspend the representation rights of the Russian Federation and Belarus in connection with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, referred to the “importance of education and educational cooperation for developing and strengthening stable, peaceful and democratic societies” (Statement of the BFUG on Consequences of the Russian Federation Invasion of Ukraine. 11/04/2022. <http://www.ehea.info/page-ADOPTION-OF-THE-STATEMENT>. Accessed on 25 Jun. 22).

The monograph, in line with the Author's goal, is to fill the gap in the Ukrainian research market in the field of the quality of higher education in the face of “the lack of lasting traditions in solving the problems of ensuring the quality of educational activities and the quality of higher education” (Introduction). In particular, it is about identifying the challenges facing the public administration in the area of quality assurance of higher education in Ukraine. The Author of the thesis considers the implementation in Ukraine of licensing and certification mechanisms for professional research and teaching staff to ensure the quality of higher

education as justified, as well as the proposed directions for improving the mechanisms of appointing university managers and concluding contracts with scientific and pedagogical staff as part of the public quality management system of higher education. In the context of the above, it should be noted, that the subject of scientific research chosen by the Author is significant and practical. The title of the monograph and its aim have been formulated properly.

2. The Author used a range of research methods, appropriate to the formulated aim, namely analysis of comprehensive literature and source materials published by the international and national organisations and institutions, theoretical analysis concerning “quality assurance”, and the method of synthesis. Identification of the theoretical and applied foundations of higher education quality assurance was based on a spatial and temporal analysis of the development of the phenomenon of higher education quality and the characteristics of the main elements of its system. The research objective is verified based on literature studies, comparative analyses and considerations carried out in the reviewed monograph. The work systematises the main stages of the formation and development of the quality assurance system in the European Higher Education Area and specifies the role of the state. Attention is focused on the specificity of the development of the quality assurance structure in higher education and the determinants of the state’s influence on this system. The subject of generalisation is the mechanism of public governance in the sphere of ensuring the quality of higher education. Based on a comparative analysis of the functioning of higher education models in Finland, Great Britain, and Poland, the Author develops recommendations for the improvement of public administration mechanisms in the field of quality assurance of higher education in Ukraine.

3. The monograph consists of five chapters, an introduction, a conclusion, and a list of sources. Each chapter ends with the conclusions. According to the reviewer, it reflects the maturity of Autor’s scientific workshop and ability to conduct a thorough scientific investigation. The structure of the monograph is logical, well-balanced, and homogeneous. The chapters show that the Author operates the conceptual apparatus and possesses the ability to select information and present it properly.

Chapter 1. Theoretical and methodological foundations for researching the phenomenon of quality of higher education within the scope of scientific discourse on public administration This chapter can be considered an attempt to create a theoretical basis for the analysis of the quality of higher education in the context of the views of scientists, the content of post-Soviet scientific schools, and national documents and monitoring missions.

Chapter 2. Mechanisms of public governance of functioning and development of the quality assurance system of higher education The second chapter of the reviewed thesis studies the mechanisms of the functioning of public administration of the quality assurance system in higher education at the organisational and institutional level and presents dialectics of interconnections and content development, as well as a comprehensive administrative mechanism.

Chapter 3. Analysis of the content and practice of applying the mechanisms of public governance of quality assurance in higher education in the European Higher Education Area In the third chapter the specificity of the creation and development of the quality assurance system in the European Higher Education Area is described, as well as the role of the state in creation and operation of quality assurance mechanisms in higher education of three selected countries: Finland. the United Kingdom and Poland.

Chapter 4. State policy in the field of quality assurance of higher education The fourth chapter outlines state policy: the content of the phenomenon, the basic principles of its formation; the main elements of the state policy in the sphere of assuring quality in higher education.

Chapter 5. Improving the content and practice of implementing the mechanisms of public governance in the sphere of quality assurance in higher education in Ukraine The last chapter contains directions for improving the mechanisms of appointing university managers and concluding contracts with academic and pedagogical staff to ensure the quality of higher education and outlines the potential in this field for the licensing and certification of professional activity.

4. The reviewer assesses the monograph unequivocally positively. In particular, the subject of the work is important from a cognitive and practical perspective. The transparency of the work structure should be emphasised, which is the result of the logic of reasoning and editorial

Від редакційної колегії журналу “Теорія і практика управління соціальними системами” на час підготовки цього номеру журналу до друку монографія Мороз С. А. “Забезпечення якості вищої освіти: механізми управління та практика їх використання” була видана та надіслана

efforts. The advantage of the work is also the use of the comparative analysis method. The Author was able to use multi-threaded bibliography.

The Researcher’s maturity is also evidenced by the information about the presentation of some parts of the monograph to the scientific community during international scientific conferences and publishing studies in scientific publications.

The monograph will be useful for scientists, academics, and students, interested in the quality of educational activities of universities, as well as for experts-practitioners active in the domain of public governance ensuring the quality of higher education.

To sum up, Ms Svitlana Moroz’s monograph “Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Governance Mechanisms and Practice of Their Application” fully meets the substantive and formal requirements for such work. Therefore, I applied for the publication of this monograph and admission to the next stages of the degree procedure.

до вказаних у списку обов’язкової розсилки бібліотек України (ISBN 978-966-418-330-4; Мороз С. А. Забезпечення якості вищої освіти: механізми управління та практика їх використання: монографія / С. А. Мороз – Харків: НУЦЗУ, Львів: Видавництво ПП “Новий Світ-2000”, 2022. – 438 с.)